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UTD



Football League Division 4
Saturday, April 7th, 1979

WIGAN ATHLETIC

Kick-off 7.30p.m.

Price 20p

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 Sept 9 HALIFAX TOWN H
 Councillor W. J. Besley H
 Sept 16 ALDERSHOT H
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 Sept 30 HARTLEPOOL UNITED H
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 Oct 14 ROCHDALE H
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 Oct 26 PORTSMOUTH H
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 Dec 9 SCUNTHORPE UNITED H
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 Jan 27 DARLINGTON H
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 Jan 31 BARNLEY H
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 Feb 3 READING H
 Torbay Pioneer League H
 Feb 14 BRADFORD CITY H
 Printing Place, 258 Union Street, H
 Torquay H
 Feb 17 CREWE ALEXANDRA H
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 Feb 28 WIMBLEDON H
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 Mar 3 PORT VALE H
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 Mar 17 A.F.C. BOURNEMOUTH H
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 Mar 28 DONCASTER ROVERS H
 Gulls Travel Club H
 Apr 7 WIGAN ATHLETIC H
 Walt Hatherley Memorial Hall H
 Apr 14 NEWPORT COUNTY H
 Mid Devon Auto Electrical Ltd H
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 Apr 21 HUDDERSFIELD TOWN H
 R.N.I.B. Manor House, Torquay H
 Apr 25 YORK CITY H
 Mr. E. Rogers, 32 Powderham Road, H
 Newton Abbot H
 May 5 STOCKPORT COUNTY H
 Metcalfe Hambleton, Estate Agents, H
 Torquay.



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INSIDE



At the time of writing this, prior to setting off for our game
 at Halifax, we have seen quite a turnabout in our fortunes with
 three consecutive victories (two of them away from home)
 following a run of eight games with only one win. That's
 football though, down one minute but up again the next! It's
 the ability to pick oneself up that marks the true professionals
 in this game.

I felt I had to bring myself back into the side following our
 long run of poor results. The priority was to tighten up the
 defence and this has been achieved by only conceding two
 goals in that run of three victories, yet still scoring enough
 goals to win us maximum points.

I watched our Youth team give a good account of them-
 selves whilst losing 3-1 at home to a much bigger and more
 experienced Bristol Rovers side in the Semi-Final of the South
 West and Wales Youth League Cup last week.

Tonight we have an early opportunity to avenge our defeat
 at Wigan three weeks ago. I did not feel that we deserved to
 be beaten that night, and I'm confident that we can turn the
 tables tonight. Ian McNeill has done a fine job in pushing his
 side so high up the table in this their first ever season of
 League football.

Mike Green

SPONSOR GOAL

50 GOALS AT £4.90 ½ per goal = £245.25

Donations to be added to end of season total:

QUEEN STREET POST OFFICE, Newton Abbot	}	
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A. VAN NIEKERK, Haarlem, Holland		£25.00

Any businesses or individuals who would like to add to the total
 amount at the end of the season please contact Commercial
 Manager Alex Jackson on 39349.

TOTAL PROMISED SO FAR £370.25

PROGRESS 1978-79

Date	Opponent	K.O. Venue	P	A	Gate	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1978																	
Aug. 12	Legion Cup 1		5-1	7-28		Turner	Payne	Parsons	Wilson	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Aug. 15	16 Plymouth Argyle	3.00pm	A	1,399		Turner	Payne	Parsons	Wilson	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Aug. 16	16 Plymouth Argyle	7.30pm	A	1,399		Turner	Payne	Parsons	Wilson	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Aug. 18	16 Plymouth Argyle	7.30pm	H	1,399		Turner	Payne	Parsons	Wilson	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Aug. 20	2 Grimsley Town	3.00pm	A	2-3	3554	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 2	9 Halifax Town	3.00pm	A	2-3	3554	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 2	9 Halifax Town	7.30pm	A	2-3	3554	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 12	12 Barnsley	3.00pm	A	2-1	12,844	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 12	12 Barnsley	7.30pm	A	2-1	12,844	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 15	15 Bradford City	3.00pm	A	2-1	12,844	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 15	15 Bradford City	7.30pm	A	2-1	12,844	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 23	23 Doncaster	3.00pm	A	2-1	1,103	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 23	23 Doncaster	7.30pm	A	2-1	1,103	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 27	27 Reading	3.00pm	A	6-1	3,123	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Sept. 27	27 Reading	7.30pm	A	6-1	3,123	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 7	7 Crewe Alexandra	3.00pm	A	2-8	1,184	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 7	7 Crewe Alexandra	7.30pm	A	2-8	1,184	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 10	10 Doncaster Rovers	3.00pm	A	2-1	2,807	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 10	10 Doncaster Rovers	7.30pm	A	2-1	2,807	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 13	13 York City	3.00pm	A	2-0	2,584	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 13	13 York City	7.30pm	A	2-0	2,584	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 21	21 Port Vale	3.00pm	A	2-1	4,158	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 21	21 Port Vale	7.30pm	A	2-1	4,158	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 28	28 Portsmouth	3.00pm	A	2-1	4,158	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Oct. 28	28 Portsmouth	7.30pm	A	2-1	4,158	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Nov. 4	4 A.F.C. Bournemouth	3.00pm	A	2-1	3,147	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Nov. 4	4 A.F.C. Bournemouth	7.30pm	A	2-1	3,147	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Nov. 11	11 Grimsley Town	3.00pm	A	2-1	3,147	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Nov. 11	11 Grimsley Town	7.30pm	A	2-1	3,147	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Nov. 18	18 Wigan A.F.C.	3.00pm	A	2-0	4,445	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Nov. 18	18 Wigan A.F.C.	7.30pm	A	2-0	4,445	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Dec. 9	9 Southampton United	7.30pm	A	1-3	2,344	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Dec. 9	9 Southampton United	7.30pm	A	1-3	2,344	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Dec. 16	16 A.P. Lerrington	3.00pm	A	1-3	2,389	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Dec. 16	16 A.P. Lerrington	7.30pm	A	1-3	2,389	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Dec. 23	23 Newport County	3.15pm	A	1-3	4,139	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Dec. 23	23 Newport County	7.30pm	A	1-3	4,139	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 9	9 Newcastle U.F.A.C.	3.30pm	A	1-3	4,144	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 9	9 Newcastle U.F.A.C.	7.30pm	A	1-3	4,144	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 20	20 Aldershot	3.00pm	A	0-1	3,168	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 20	20 Aldershot	7.30pm	A	0-1	3,168	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 23	23 Barnsley	7.30pm	H	1-3	2,211	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 23	23 Barnsley	7.30pm	H	1-3	2,211	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 26	26 Reading	7.30pm	A	1-1	3,416	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Jan. 26	26 Reading	7.30pm	A	1-1	3,416	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Feb. 10	10 Hartlepool United	3.00pm	A	2-3	2,276	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Feb. 10	10 Hartlepool United	7.30pm	A	2-3	2,276	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Feb. 17	17 Bradford City	7.30pm	A	1-2	3,072	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Feb. 17	17 Bradford City	7.30pm	A	1-2	3,072	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Feb. 26	26 Walsley	7.30pm	H	1-2	3,172	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Feb. 26	26 Walsley	7.30pm	H	1-2	3,172	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 3	3 Part Vale	7.30pm	H	2-3	1,809	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 3	3 Part Vale	7.30pm	H	2-3	1,809	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 10	10 Portsmouth	3.00pm	A	0-1	3,449	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 10	10 Portsmouth	7.30pm	A	0-1	3,449	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 17	17 Wigan Athletic	7.30pm	A	1-3	3,722	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 17	17 Wigan Athletic	7.30pm	A	1-3	3,722	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 17	17 A.F.C. Bournemouth	7.30pm	A	0-1	2,169	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 17	17 A.F.C. Bournemouth	7.30pm	A	0-1	2,169	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 24	24 Nonington Town	7.30pm	H	3-1	1,281	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 24	24 Nonington Town	7.30pm	H	3-1	1,281	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 30	30 Walsley	7.30pm	H	1-2	1,281	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 30	30 Walsley	7.30pm	H	1-2	1,281	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 30	30 Blackpool County B.F.I.	7.30pm	A	0-1	2,170	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 30	30 Blackpool County B.F.I.	7.30pm	A	0-1	2,170	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis
Mar. 30	30 Blackpool County B.F.I.	7.30pm	A	0-1	2,170	Turner	Twicken	Parsons	Davis	Green	Dumas	Coffin	Davis	Deane	Murphy	Roper	Lewis



The Bournemouth keeper holds on to a low shot as Peter Coffill closes in.

To be arranged: Reichardt A

- **Desktop player substituted**
1.7 Percent Overall

Geoff Allman's Scene



FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading	37	14	3	1	40	8	5	8	6	22	27	43
Grimsby	36	12	4	2	42	17	9	2	7	24	21	48
Aldershot	36	12	5	2	33	14	4	9	4	20	21	46
Wimbledon	32	13	2	2	33	17	6	5	4	24	18	45
Wigan	32	13	3	4	31	17	6	4	6	17	17	45
Barnsley	32	10	4	2	36	17	6	7	3	19	12	43
Newport	35	9	4	5	29	24	8	4	6	24	21	42
Portsmouth	34	11	4	2	28	9	5	4	8	22	27	40
Torquay	35	10	3	5	29	22	5	2	10	16	28	35
Stockport	35	10	3	7	28	19	3	5	7	22	28	34
Hereford	35	8	7	2	26	16	3	4	11	14	25	33
Bournemouth	36	8	5	5	28	15	3	5	10	9	15	32
Port Vale	34	6	7	4	22	20	5	3	9	21	28	32
York City	32	6	5	5	19	18	6	3	7	15	23	32
Bradford City	33	7	4	5	24	19	6	2	9	20	33	32
Huddersfield	33	9	6	2	24	12	2	3	11	16	27	31
Doncaster	36	7	6	7	21	20	4	3	9	19	33	31
Scunthorpe	32	8	1	6	22	23	3	7	7	14	21	30
Hartlepool	32	5	8	3	26	22	3	5	8	11	26	29
Northampton	33	8	4	5	29	23	2	3	11	17	33	27
Darlington	32	4	5	6	15	15	3	5	9	19	33	24
Crewe	34	3	6	7	19	27	2	7	9	17	37	23
Rochdale	32	3	4	7	11	22	2	5	11	16	31	19
Halifax	33	2	4	7	7	16	2	2	16	14	37	14

With so many clubs gathering for the final run-in for promotion, it is obvious that those that put together a consistent run of results will be the ones that finally achieve success in this weather ravaged season. Grimsby are one such team, and their win at Doncaster last Saturday, their fifth victory in six away games, took them to second place in the table. **TONY FORD** hit the winning goal — his tenth since the turn of the year. Oddly enough, Grimsby's only defeat of late, a 4-0 hammering at Reading, three days before, was sandwiched between two very disappointing home results for the "Royals". Saturday's goalless draw with Port Vale followed a 1-0 defeat by Scunthorpe. This was easily Vale's best result for some time, coming as it did in a spell of five games when they have scored just once. Hereford are another side finding it hard to score at the moment and they lost their sixth game out of the last seven away when going down 2-0 to goals by **ALAN CORK** and **STEVE LESLIE** at Wimbledon. Shortly after hitting six goals at Plainmoor, the Dons have just emerged from a goalless four game sequence!

One team for whom there is no getting away from the bottom is Halifax, they lost 2-0 at Newport who scored through **DAVE BRUTON** and **NIGEL VAUGHAN** and have now won five games on the trot to keep alive their slim hopes of promotion. Halifax did of course manage to beat us this Tuesday and so end our run of three consecutive victories that was maintained with our 1-0 win at Stockport last Friday.

ROY DAVIES' brilliant individual goal from 30 yards was his first since scoring on his debut last September — another long range effort against Hereford. Stockport have now taken only one point from their last three home games whilst we have now won five times away from home this season. In a vital clash last Friday Portsmouth drew 1-1 at Barnsley for only their second point from six away games and so end Barnsley's recent run of four successive home wins. Sadly Pompey manager **JIMMY DICKENSON** was rushed to hospital after the game after suffering a suspected heart attack.

Pompey seem to have thrown away their promotion chance, but tonight's visitors Wigan still believe they have an outside chance following their 1-0 home victory over Bournemouth last Saturday and Tuesday's 1-1 draw at Hartlepool, a belief that will probably be reflected in their large following of supporters at Plainmoor tonight.

Aldershot's bid has lost a little ground recently, only one win in five games, and last Saturday they drew at York who have hauled themselves away from re-election fears with only one defeat in seven games. Huddersfield also pulled themselves away with a 2-0 home victory over Hartlepool, but Darlington's 0-0 draw at Bradford City leaves them in the bottom four, but they look as if they are the only one of these clubs with any real chance of avoiding having to re-apply.

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SPOTLIGHT

Jimmy Dunne



Jimmy Dunne competes for possession with a Port Vale striker.

PHOTO: COLIN BRATCHER

The stars are coming out on Wednesday May 2nd when popular defender Jimmy Dunne has a well earned Testimonial game at Plainmoor between his own All-Star Team and Bristol City who are rapidly becoming one of the better sides in the first division and should be including Tom Ritchie the elder brother of our Steve. "I want the evening to be one of real entertainment for the fans and that's why I've enlisted the help of my old Fulham team-mate Alan Mullery in recruiting a team of crowd pullers to play for me" said Jim this week. "So far Alan has agreed to play himself and he's also promised to bring along Teddy Maybank and Peter Ward from Brighton; I've also got Colin Lee to play (the needed little persuasion to turn out against his old club) and he's bringing John Lacy with him who was also at Fulham with me. Then there's three living legends I'm really proud to present: Frank McLintock, Bobby Moore and the incomparable Jimmy Greaves - it should be worth the entrance money just to see him alone. West Bromwich Albion have promised to send along Cyrille Regis and Laurie Cunningham if their fixtures remain clear, so I'm keeping my fingers crossed on that one. Steve Ritchie has asked to play for obvious reasons and John Turner and myself will make up the team."

It speaks volumes for the Irishman's popularity that so many famous players are prepared to chip in and do their bit to ensure that he gets a good pay night on May 2nd. Ever since he burst on the Plainmoor scene as a teenager in 1967, Jimmy's play has oozed class and came as no surprise when he departed in 1971 for £17,000 to Fulham. Before long he won a full cap for the Republic of Ireland which remains his proudest achievement, and during his five years at Craven Cottage played with and against some of the really famous names in football Mullery and Moore (his favourite players), George Best - his toughest opponent, and Eusabio amongst them.

Production of a special souvenir programme is in progress for the game and in it there will be a full history of Jimmy's football career together with his recollections of almost fifteen years as a professional and his hopes and ambitions for the future.



WIGAN ATHLETIC

Ground: Springfield Park

Manager: Ian McNeill

Record Attendance: 27,500 v Hereford United (F.A. Cup 2nd Round) 1953

Honours: Northern Premier League

Champions: 1970-71, 1974-75; N.P.L.

Cup Winners: 1971-72; N.P.L. Shield

Winners 1972-73, 1973-74, 1975-76.

Cheshire League Champions: 1933-34

1934-35, 1935-36, 1964-65.

Lancashire Combination Champions:

1947-48, 1950-51, 1952-53, 1953-54.

Colours: Blue and White Striped Shirts, Blue Shorts, White trim. White Stockings.

INTRO WIGAN



BACK ROW: K. Smart, P. Houghton, N. Davids, G. Gay, J. ...
FRONT ROW: I. McNeill (Manager), A. Crompton, I. Seddo



It took twenty five attempts before Wigan Athletic managed to secure a place in the Football League last summer when they ousted neighbouring Southport after a second ballot, which probably explains why their townspeople have given the Club their third highest average gate (6,700) in the fourth division. The fact that their forerunners, Wigan Borough, failed to complete their 1931-32 third division programme had always gone against any attempts that the Latics had made to bring League soccer back to Springfield Park, but patient re-development of the 30,000 capacity ground and Northern Premier League Championships in 1970-71 and 1974-75 plus an F.A. Cup run last season that only ended at first division Birmingham City finally convinced the League clubs that the time was ripe for a return of League soccer to this large Lancashire town after a break of forty six years.

LATICS REPAY

Manager IAN McNEILL in his second spell in charge has kept faith with the majority of last season's squad and they have repaid him by storming to fifth place in the league table at present and they could well have been in the top four had they not dropped a home point to Bournemouth last Saturday. Indeed, after their first seven games this season, Wigan had only three points so their late run for a promotion spot is truly remarkable, though they will have to rely on Barnsley and Wimbledon dropping points in the games that they have in hand if they are to achieve promotion in their first ever season and so emulate Peterborough and Hereford who both share that honour.

Tonight's clash should be fascinating for the Latics had won their last three away games before crashing 3-1 at Grimsby a fortnight ago in what could yet prove to be a fatal slip, whilst we have won three of our last

WIGAN ATHLETIC



Brown, F. Corrigan, N. Ward, J. Hinnigan, J. Wright,
n, T. Gore, I. Gillibrand, J. Wilkie, I. Purdie, K. Banks (Trainer).



THE FIRST TIME WE MET

Saturday December 8th, 1934

(F.A. Cup 2nd Round)

WIGAN ATHLETIC 3

[Roberts 2, Scott]

TORQUAY UNITED 2

[Morgan, Protheroe]

Attendance: 20,000

WIGAN: Caunce, Robinson, Talbot,
Paterson, Watson, Tufnell, Armes,
Robson, Roberts, Felton, Scott.

TORQUAY: Langford, Gregg, Tapp,
Jones, Welsh, Rees, Morgan,
Beedall, Walters, Hutchinson,
Protheroe.

McNEILL'S FAITH



four games to firmly put behind us an unhappy run of unsuccessful matches that included a 3-1 defeat at Springfield Park less than three weeks ago. **MICKEY MOORE** (2) and **JOE HINNIGAN** scored for Wigan with **LES LAWRENCE** replying for us and the teams that played that night should show very few changes for tonight's encounter.

In goal Wigan hope to have experienced **JOHN BROWN**, now in his third season following spells at Preston and Stockport. At full-back should be ex-Plymouth Argyle player **KEVIN SMART** and trialist **JOHN CURTIS** who is replacing the former South Liverpool player **JOE HINNIGAN**. Indeed Wigan tried unsuccessfully to get our own Steve Ritchie to fill this vacancy at the time that we signed him! Irishman **NOEL WARD** has played for Portadown and Aberdeen, before joining Wigan two years ago and is now

attracting a lot of attention playing in the middle of the defence alongside **DAVE FRETWELL** who came from Bradford City. **TOMMY GORE**, signed from Tranmere five years ago, had a very good game against us in midfield alongside **FRANK CORRIGAN** from Northwich Victoria and **JEFF WRIGHT** from Netherfield (four years ago). **DEREK BROWNBILL**, ex Port Vale, played as a striker the other week but may be replaced by the fit again **PETER HOUGHTON** who arrived from South Liverpool last season, whilst **MICKEY MOORE** and **IAN PURDIE** who has been with Aberdeen, Dundee and Motherwell, complete the striking positions with former Blackburn player **ALAN CROMPTON** pressing for a place. You won't find a Wigan player amongst the leading goalscorers but that's because the goals are being freely shared around a very confident squad.

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REMEMBER

When Torquay United defeated Chesterfield 3-2 at Plainmoor in the opening game of the 1971-72 season there was little sign of the disasters that would befall them later on. Indeed United gained ten points from their first nine League games which, although not setting the world alight, looked to be a sign that United might at least hold their own yet again in the Third Division. In addition to this United had won through to the Third Round of the League Cup with 2-1 victories at Fourth Division Newport and at Plainmoor against Oldham. The draw gave United a tremendous home attraction against Tottenham, thus reviving memories of 1965 and the two epic Tottenham battles. In front of a packed Plainmoor Bruce Stuckey gave United a deserved lead when he smashed a tremendous shot past Pat Jennings but Spurs soon got on terms when Len Twichin brought down Martin Chivers in the penalty area when the ball appeared to be running harmlessly out of play and Martin Peters converted the penalty. Tottenham then got on top and added three further goals to ensure that there would be no repeat of the happenings in 1965.

By this time United's League fortunes had taken a turn for the worse, having lost at home to Oldham and been hammered 5-0 at Rochdale. The final nail in Allan Brown's coffin came when Wrexham scored three goals at Plainmoor to turn a 2-0 United lead into a 2-3 defeat. Brown's comment after the game was strangely prophetic; "This team will get me the sack! They have sold the Club up the river with their performance tonight". Two days later his contract was terminated and a sadly disillusioned Brown left Plainmoor after less than three years at the helm, during which time the Club had received nearly £100,000 in transfer fees, but gates had slumped from nine thousand to less than six thousand. Jack Edwards was once again put in temporary charge but the Directors were so impressed with his handling of the team that they made the appointment permanent on October 25th. This was followed by the appointment in November of Fred Ford as coach. Fred had been greatly admired during his time with Swindon and both Bristol Clubs. United's results did not improve dramatically under Edwards and they lost eight League matches in a row until they defeated Blackburn 3-1 at Plainmoor. An improvement followed for a period but United were entrenched in the relegation area and it was clear that it would need a near miracle to save United.

As so often happens to struggling teams, United were hit very badly by some appalling injuries and illnesses during the season, the most vital probably being Mal Lucas who broke a bone in his foot in the opening game and having recovered from this then went down with appendicitis.

During the summer United had sold Mick Cave and Bill Kitchener to Bournemouth. New signings were Alan Skirton, the Bristol City and former Arsenal winger, Brian Hill, also a product of Blackburn, and Neil Johnson, the Spurs midfielder player whose contract was cancelled in October because he refused to live in Torquay. When Edwards took over as Manager he was soon busy in the transfer market. His first signing was Brian W. Hill, the Coventry defender who had been with the Sky Blues throughout their meteoric rise from the Fourth to First Division. He then signed goal-keeper John Connaughton on loan from Manchester United. Connaughton took over from an out of form Andy Donnelly with Mike Mahoney still troubled by his knee injury. John remained with United until the beginning of April and in that time became a firm favourite with United's supporters. Edwards then paid out a record £15,000 for the Leicester City striker David Teasdale. Teasdale was very unlucky with serious injuries during his stay at Plainmoor but showed enough in his first season to confirm that initially it was money well spent. At the same time United welcomed back Ken Sandercock, who joined them on loan from Leicester, but the transfer soon became permanent after the aggressive little utility man's enthusiasm had rubbed off on the other United players. After long negotiations with Port Vale United finally got the man they had been chasing for nearly a year when defender Clint Boulton signed for about £10,000. In view of Clint's great service to this Club over the past seven years this must rank as one of United's best buys. Indeed had United possessed Trevor Henson Clint Boulton's stay in the Fourth Division would have been a very short one. He has appeared in virtually every position for United, including goal-keeper on two occasions during his first season when he took over from John Connaughton who sustained an early injury against Tranmere and at Bolton when Mike Mahoney had to leave the field.

Not all of the transfer activity was in the direction of Plainmoor for Tommy Mitchinson became yet another United player to join Bournemouth when he signed for John Bond's club just before Christmas. In

addition Allan Young and Fred Jardine were released from their contracts in January and the following month John Hudge left United for Bristol Rovers in a swap which brought Plainmoor legend Robin Stubbins back to Torquay. This was a last ditch gamble by United to avert the growing threat of relegation but it never really came off and Stubbins played only a handful of games before having to quit the game the following season because of a troublesome leg injury. United did better business when they signed David Stocks the Bournemouth defender. Like Boulton, David was a tremendous club man with far more skill than many gave him credit for.

United's form in the early part of the new year was terrible. Between January 1st when they lost 1-4 at Plainmoor against Swansea and March 11th when they won 2-1 at Wrexham they failed to find the net in all the seven League games that they played. The Wrexham game signalled a revival and United played their best football of the season in defeating Argyle 2-1 and runaway champions Aston Villa (also 2-1) and unluckily dropping a point to Notts County who equalised with a disputed Don Mason penalty. But it was far too late for United to save themselves from relegation and the only question was whether they could pull themselves off the bottom of the League. They had not finished at the foot of any Division since their first season in the League in 1927/28. At the end of April United visited Aston Villa who were already champions and 37-582 turned up to salute Villa who hammered United 5-1 with Brian Little scoring on his debut. Dick Edwards, voted United's player of the year for the second successive season, scored United's goal. United drew 1-1 with Bolton at Plainmoor in their last game of the season to finish one place off the bottom of the table, pushing Bradford City into the wooden spoon position on goal average.

In the F.A. Cup United again reached the Third Round by beating Nuneaton at Plainmoor with a David Teasdale goal and then winning 4-1 at Barnet. Teasdale getting another goal and Alan Welsh a fine hat-trick. The Third Round saw United travel to Burdon Park and although Teasdale again scored for United Bolton scored two goals to secure their place in Round Four.

Any thought that Torquay United would have an easy ride back to the Third Division at the first attempt were soon dispelled as United made a stuttering start to the 1972/73 season. After an encouraging display in a goal-less pre-season Plainmoor friendly against Frank O'Farrell's Manchester United (who paraded their full strength side in front of a 15,144 crowd) the harsh realities of Fourth Division soccer were there for all to see. Home attendances were drastically down, with four gates below 2,000 for the first time in living memory. On United's travels the attendance figures were generally even worse with the games at Darlington, Workington, Chester and Doncaster attracting only just above the one thousand mark. On the field too United were not settling the game alight and although unbeaten in their first seven games the general play was not of a very high standard. Exeter City visited Plainmoor for the eighth game and duly smashed United's hopes with Fred Binney the man then in United's flesh. He scored a goal and another United 'reject', John Wingate placed the other.

United's close season signings included striker Mike Trebilcock from Portsmouth who had become a hero at Everton soon after his transfer from Plymouth, when his two goals helped Everton to win the 1966 F.A. Cup Final. Trebilcock started the season well enough, finding the net quite regularly (including a hat-trick against Workington) but after Christmas was in and out of the side before being released at the end of the season. Martin Wright, another striker, came from Chesterfield and many supporters felt that Martin was not given enough chances to show what he could do. Steve Morrill, a local product, made his debut for United at Crewe in the second game of the season and during the campaign appeared in 23 League games plus nine more as substitute. Steve was a fast winger who could cross a ball well with either foot but sometimes appeared to lack the competitive spirit demanded in League football. However there is no finer sight than a wing man taking on and beating a defender and sending over a good cross and when Steve did this he caused havoc in the opposition's penalty area. Another Devonian to cross his way into the team was Plymouth born midfielder David Pook, a pint-sized player with a big heart who was rather surprisingly released at the end of the season. Triallist Gareth Jones was given a contract after impressive early displays but here again the tiny Welsh winger never really fulfilled his promise.

To be continued

JOHN LOVIS.



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TALKIN' TORQUAY

Commercial Manager ALEX JACKSON writes...

Alan Tyler and Cliff Rhodes are two super keen supporters who travel to many of our Saturday night home games from their homes in North London often stopping off at Bristol City in the afternoon on their way down.

Alan, you may recall, very kindly donated the ball for our home game with Aldershot last September. They have asked if it would be a good idea to form a Torquay United London Supporters Group, whereby supporters in the metropolis or South East can get together and take advantage of each others company and also travel more cheaply. For instance you only need 10 people to hire a mini bus or to take out a party booking with British Rail. So if you are one of our programme subscribers or have travelled here tonight from London write to CLIFF RHODES, 52 SOTHEBY ROAD, LONDON N.5 for more details.

★ ★ ★ ★

Meanwhile Travel Officer George Fleet will be taking bookings tonight for the Travel Club trip to Wimbledon on Easter Monday departing Torbay Road Paignton at 9.00, Plainmoor 9.15 and Newton Abbot

Railway Station 9.40. Remember this is for members only and the fare is £3.50.

★ ★ ★ ★

Many Travel Club members were disappointed when our game at Wigan was postponed last December, and when the game was eventually played three weeks ago were unable to attend due to the fact that it was a mid-week fixture. What a different story tonight! I believe that up to a thousand Wigan supporters will be here tonight to cheer their side on and I trust that they will be made very welcome here and that we shall all enjoy a friendly evening whatever the result.

Enjoy yourselves in Torbay and have a safe journey home.

★ ★ ★ ★

Finally, don't forget to visit the Gulls Shop for all that's best in football programmes and souvenirs. The new Torquay United coffee mugs and tankards have proved so popular that we keep selling out — please be patient if it happens again tonight. Very shortly we shall have on sale a new style club tie and believe me they will be very popular.



Alan Wilson scores our second goal against Doncaster.

PHOTO: COLIN BRATCHER



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FANFARE

Perhaps rather appropriately for a "Fanfare" column, I'm going to blow our own trumpet a bit tonight. Our match day programme has recently been voted the second best programme in division four equal with Wimbledon's, and runner-up to Newport County's. The poll carried out by the Football League Commercial Manager's Association and sponsored by the Birmingham Evening Mail is the only such event that is really taken seriously by the clubs as it is judged by people from all the different aspects of programme production: journalists, printers, collectors and commercial experts.

I thought our achievement in coming second is all the more commendable when considering the fact that although our average gate for League games at Plainmoor 2,762, is the fifth lowest in division four (only Crewe, Darlington, Rochdale and Halifax are worse supported), we still manage to keep our production profitable. This is of course due to a number of factors i.e. our readers enjoy what we give them and keep buying their programme, our printer gives us a good product at a good price, and lastly we have priced it correctly. At the beginning of the season Alex Jackson and myself were a little apprehensive about putting the price up to 20p from last seasons 12p, and decided that to justify the increase there would have to be a pretty spectacular improvement in the quality of the programme, both in content and presentation. This I believe you will agree has been achieved, both through our own hard work and the expertise of our printers Duplex Litho of Newton Abbot who also produce the programmes of Plymouth Argyle, Exeter City, Bournemouth, Reading and now Newport County as well as several speedway circuits. Geoff Allman and John Lovis have

kept me supplied with plenty of statistical information to compile the visitor's page and of course both write their own articles as well. Did you know that John often spends a whole day at Torquay library researching his "Fifty Years" series on micro-film of the local press! He does all this for nothing as does photographer Colin Bratcher who has struggled through some pretty bad weather and our rather "dim" floodlighting to get the action shots for us.

However, if you sit back and congratulate yourself, you soon get over taken, and after all we only came second and therefore have to aim for the top in order to give you your moneys worth for next season. So where do we go from here, bearing in mind that we must show a profit — something that many clubs fail to do, I would like to serialise a coaching article for youngsters next season and will elaborate on that in a future issue, also I think there should be better coverage of the reserve and youth teams. But what do you, the readers want to see. Write to me with your observations and criticisms and I'll reply to every letter. Would you like to see more action photos, more statistics. Is there enough information on the visitors! Are you happy with what you get for 20p or would you be prepared to pay say 25p next season and have a coloured photograph on the cover?

Taking one last look at Newport Countys production to see how they beat us in the poll. Of our fifteen pages, 10 contain full copy and 5 advertising. Newport's ratio is 8% to 6%, ours sells at 20p, their's 15p, with action photo content being equal. Therefore the more advertising you put in the less you can charge, the secret is in drawing a happy medium. Do you think we have succeeded?



Steve Cooper beats the Doncaster goalkeeper for our first goal.

PHOTO: COLIN BRATCHER

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STEVE RITCHIE	3	KEVIN SMART
MIKE GREEN	4	TOMMY GORE
PETER DARKE	5	NOEL WARD
JIMMY DUNNE	6	DAVE FRETWELL
ROY DAVIES	7	FRANK CORRIGAN
LES LAWRENCE	8	JEFF WRIGHT
STEVE COOPER	9	PETER HOUGHTON
ALAN WILSON	10	MICKEY MOORE
PETER COFFILL	11	IAN PURDIE
	12	



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REFEREE: RAY LEWIS [Gt. Bookham, Surrey]

Commenced refereeing in the Kingston and District League in 1962 and reached the Football League via the Isthmian League. Has been a linesman for a E.U.F.A. Cup game in Bulgaria and an F.A.Cup Semi-Final. Married with a daughter, he is a catering executive and last refereed at Plainmoor on February 28th, 1976, when we met Stockport.

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